

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204708

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:DW

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MR. MCANDREW

NEA/INS:DKUX

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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R 172306Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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PAGE 02 STATE 204708

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 204708

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 17

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 17,
1976:

Q. YESTERDAY WE ASKED, OR I ASKED, ABOUT A DIATRIBE BY
THE PRIME MINISTER OF SRI LANKA AGAINST THE UNITED STATES,
AND I GATHERED FROM YOUR ANSWER THAT MAYBE AS THE WEEK
WENT ON YOU MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT AND
OTHER DOINGS OF THE THIRD-WORLD CONFERENCE. DO YOU AT THIS
POINT?

A. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, I DO NOT KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT WE
ARE GOING TO REPLY TO EVERYTHING THAT IS BEING SAID OR
WILL BE SAID AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. BUT YOU DID
ASK YESTERDAY ABOUT THE INDIAN OCEAN.

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PAGE 03 STATE 204708

I WOULD SIMPLY COMMENT ON THAT POINT THAT OUR MILITARY
PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY CON-
STANT DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND THE REASONS FOR
OUR PRESENCE THERE HAVE BEEN CLEARLY STATED BY US ON A
NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. WITH REGARD TO THE DIEGO GARCIA

FACILITY, IT IS A RATHER MODEST FACILITY DESIGNED TO
MAKE OUR DEPLOYMENTS IN THE AREA MORE EFFICIENT. I DO

NOT THINK I WOULD GO FARTHER THAN THAT IN COMMENTING
ON THESE STATEMENTS MADE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY AT
THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WITH REGARD TO THE AMERICAN
PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE204708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MKBERRY:DW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760316-0446
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760845/aaaabmvp.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 17 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUG
TAGS: PFOR, US
To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

